

97-128

KENNETH E. ROBERSON
ATTORNEY AT LAW
1615 SOUTH GLENDALE AVENUE
GLENDALE, CALIFORNIA 91205
(213) 246-8124

March 29, 1984

Allan Glasser, Esq.
Federal Communications Commission
Mass Media Bureau
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: WHCT-TV, Hartford, Connecticut

Dear Mr. Glasser:

As you know, on September 30, 1983, the Commission granted Faith Center, Inc.'s Petition for Special Relief filed September 29, 1982, subject to the conditions that the assignee, Interstate Media Corporation (IMC), was found fully qualified to be a Commission licensee following review of that issue by the Mass Media Bureau and that the contemplated assignment was in fact consummated within 90 days of the Bureau's grant of the assignment application becoming final. If either condition were not met, the proceeding was to return to its status prior to the filing of Faith's Petition for Special Relief. Memorandum Opinion & Order FCC 83-448.

Despite urgent and good faith efforts on the part of Faith Center, Inc., Faith Center, Inc. and IMC will not be able to consummate the contemplated agreement. The reason for this failure lies solely with IMC who, despite repeated adjustments and extensions by Faith Center, is not able to obtain the necessary financing enabling them to be a viable purchaser and thereby consummate the agreement.

Indeed, with Faith Center, Inc. willing to finance the assignment, the most IMC would offer was a no-cash financing arrangement which is unacceptable to Faith Center, Inc. and contrary to Commission policy.

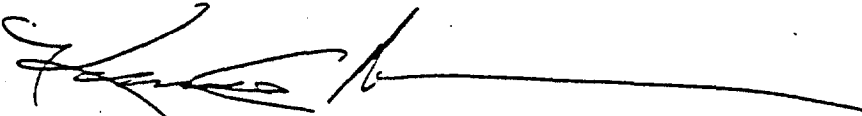
Faith Center, Inc. does however in fact have an excellent opportunity to consummate an assignment to other minority parties consistent with the Statement of Policy on Minority Ownership of Broadcasting Facilities, which opportunity cannot be pursued of course in the present assignment posture.

During our phone conversation of this date, you indicated your understanding was that if the contemplated assignment was not consummated, Faith Center, Inc. could continue to operate WHCT-TV pursuant to 47 U.S.C. §307(d), despite the fact that the WHCT license would otherwise appear to have an expiration date of 4/1/84. You further indicated that the matter returning to designation hearing status, Faith Center, Inc. would in your view be able to file a third distress sale petition.

Allan Glasser, Esq.
Federal Communications Commission
Re: WHCT-TV
March 29, 1984
Page 2

Faith Center, Inc. and IMC will not be able to consummate their agreement. Faith Center, Inc. respectfully requests an extension of time of 120 days within which to file a third petition for distress sale relief.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Ken Roberson', followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Kenneth E. Roberson, Esq.

cc: Mr. Clay C. Pendarvis, Chief
TV Branch, Video Services Division
Mass Media Bureau

Attachment E

Religious TV Programs No Competition To Local Church Support, Report Says

By Marjorie Hyer
Washington Post Staff Writer

NEW YORK, April 16—The 13.3 million Americans who watch religious television programs are more likely to vote than frequent viewers of general television programming. They may send money to three or more TV ministers, but they support their local churches as well. They are a little older than general TV watchers, have less income and education and lean toward religious fundamentalism.

These are a few of the findings of a new and far-reaching study on religion and television, conducted by the University of Pennsylvania's Annenberg School of Communications and the Gallup Organization. The study was released today in a news conference at New York University's skyscraper campus, across from the New York Public Library.

The study found that religious TV programs supplement rather than compete with the local congregation, in terms of both dollars and church attendance. In recent years, leaders of mainline denominations have watched their congregations and budgets shrink and blamed the popular TV ministries, with their constant appeals to send money, for the empty pews.

"Our study has found no support for that charge," the researchers said in their report. "Viewers of religious programs, including the prominent television ministries, are no less likely than nonviewers to attend, contribute to, and participate in local church activities."

The research project, the most comprehensive

study of religious broadcasting ever undertaken, was sponsored and financed by the Ad Hoc Committee on Electronic Church Research.

The 39 organizations and churches involved ran the gamut from the National Council of Churches and the United States Catholic Conference to Jerry Falwell's Old Time Gospel Hour, the Jimmy Swaggart Ministries and the PTL Television Network.

Forty percent of religious TV viewers send money to three or more religious broadcasters, the study found.

Larry Gross, a member of the Annenberg research team, told the crowded news conference that although TV ministers encourage their listeners to vote, researchers found no instance of endorsement of a specific candidate.

Other findings of the study:

- Men not only outnumber women in religious TV programs—although it's the other way around in the audiences—but are almost universally "in charge." Women are depicted as having "little authority and power."

- Although only 1 percent of participants in the religious programs studied claimed to be healers, personal problems were mentioned in 75 percent of the programs.

- Dissatisfaction with moral standards and practices prevailing in society emerged as "one of the most distinctive bonds" distinguishing religious viewers from general TV viewers, with half of religious viewers saying they are "very dissatisfied" with the nation's morals, usually defined in sexual terms.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Randi Riccardi, a secretary in the law firm of Flood, Bechtel, Ward & Cole, do hereby certify that I caused copies of the foregoing Petition for Extraordinary Relief to be placed in the U.S. Mail, first class, postage prepaid, to the individuals on the attached service list, on this 19th day of April, 1984.

Randi Riccardi
Randi Riccardi

SERVICE LIST

*The Honorable Mark S. Fowler
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Room 814
Washington, D.C. 20554

*The Honorable James H. Quello
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Room 802
Washington, D.C. 20554

*The Honorable Henry M. Rivera
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Room 820
Washington, D.C. 20554

*The Honorable Mimi Weyforth Dawson
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Room 826
Washington, D.C. 20554

*The Honorable Dennis R. Patrick
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Room 844
Washington, D.C. 20554

*Bruce E. Fein, Esq.
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Room 614
Washington, D.C. 20554

*The Honorable John M. Frysiak
Administrative Law Judge
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Room 238
Washington, D.C. 20054

*Chuck Kelley, Esq.
Chief
Enforcement Division
Federal Communications Commission
2025 M Street, N.W.
Room 6010
Washington, D.C. 20554

*Charles Dziedzic, Esq.
Chief, Hearing Branch
Federal Communications Commission
Mass Media Bureau
2025 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

*James C. McKinney, Esq.
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Room 314
Washington, D.C. 20554

*Roy Stewart, Esq.
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Room 702
Washington, D.C. 20554

Edward L. Masry, Esq.
15495 Ventura Boulevard
Sherman Oaks, California 91403

Kenneth E. Roberson, Esq.
1615 South Glendale Avenue
Glendale, CA 91205

*By Hand